

much occupied by clerical and professorial work to admit of the full development of his powers in the field of original research. When he was obliged, through the infirmities of age, to resign his Professorship, and to relinquish his connection with the Observatory, he still continued most solicitous of its welfare, and to him is due all the credit of the maintenance of an efficient institution for the advancement of astronomical science in Durham. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on December 13, 1839.

The clerical duties, to which reference is made above, were the diligent supervision of the country parish of Esh, six miles from Durham, of which he was for thirty-five years the active and much-loved pastor, and which cure he only resigned in 1869. In 1865 he was appointed to a stall in the Cathedral by the present Bishop of Durham, Dr. Baring.

In addition to his mathematical acquirements, Professor Chevallier was a distinguished classical scholar, and largely acquainted with English literature. He was also thoroughly conversant with the French and Italian languages. He is the only Cambridge man who was Examiner both for the Mathematical and Classical Triposes in the same year (1826), and few men have covered so large an area of literary and scientific knowledge.

This notice must not close without recording the still higher qualities which Canon Chevallier displayed as a sincere Christian. He embraced with childlike simplicity the Scripture Revelation. He was imbued with a deeply reverent spirit, and his life was one of consistent piety and large Christian benevolence. He has been the liberal friend of very many. Many a poor student at Durham has he taken by the hand and helped through his College course. His genial, kindly character made him a favourite with all who knew him. Of singular modesty, high intellectual capacity, sincere earnestness in work, deep learning, and the greatest willingness to impart knowledge, he has left behind him a reputation that could hardly be increased within his sphere of action, while his numberless deeds of kindness and many social virtues render his memory still more beloved than admired.

R. J. K.

F. H. ELLIOTT, M.A., was born in London on May 27, 1819, and was a son of the well-known mathematical instrument maker, Mr. W. Elliott, in Holborn. After having received a private education he entered Christ's College, Cambridge, in July 1841, where he remained three years, and obtained his B.A. degree in January 1845. Afterwards he practised as a surveying engineer during the period of the Railway mania, in which capacity he acquired a practical knowledge of instruments, which in after-life he turned to excellent account. Subsequently he entered his father's business, which was removed to the Strand, and which by his activity and good business qualities was greatly increased.

He died suddenly, of apoplexy, in January 1873, and a striking

proof of the estimation in which he was held, not only by his friends but by those in his employ, was given by the great number who crowded to pay the last tribute of respect at his grave.

The Rev. GEORGE FISHER was born at Sunbury, on the 31st of July, 1794. One of a numerous family, and left from childhood to the guardianship of a widowed mother, he received but little early education, and, at the age of fourteen, when most boys of his position in life are enjoying advantages he would have appreciated to the utmost, employment was found him as a clerk in the Westminster Insurance Office. His strong mathematical and scientific tastes had already declared themselves, and such occupation as his must necessarily have been distasteful to him; yet when after some years he left it for work more in accordance with his inclinations, his employers gave substantial testimony to the respect which his diligence and devotion to duty had earned from them.

The ardent desire for knowledge, which never in extreme old age deserted him, now brought him into contact with men of distinguished rank in the scientific world to whom he would otherwise have remained unknown, and the names of Sir Joseph Banks, Sir Humphry Davy, Sir Everard Home, with many others, were always gratefully mentioned by him as having noticed with kindly sympathy and generously fostered his early love of science.

In 1817 he entered St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, with no greater store of information than he had contrived to gain during the hardly-won intervals of leisure which his London life afforded him. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Fisher's University career was interrupted, not only by the Polar voyage which he undertook in 1818, but by a serious illness, which, attacking him at the very time of examination, prevented his attaining all the success which his talent and industry deserved.

In the year 1818, by the recommendation of the President and Council of the Royal Society, Mr. Fisher was appointed Astronomer to an expedition then setting out in His Majesty's ships *Dorothea* and *Trent* (about to proceed to the Arctic regions), to make observations concerning the length of a pendulum vibrating seconds, for the determination of the figure of the earth, and to make other scientific observations, for which instruments were provided. Unfortunately, the vessels encountered a violent gale of wind and were disabled, returning to England in the latter part of the same year. However, the time was not entirely thrown away: experiments were made on the length of the pendulum at Spitzbergen, from which Mr. Fisher deduced the ellipticity of the meridian to be $\frac{1}{313}$, in latitude $79^{\circ} 40' N.$, which agreed sensibly with

Sabine's previous determinations in latitudes $60^{\circ} 10' N.$ and $70^{\circ} 10' N.$ He was afterwards, on the same recommendation,